

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8548

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RO, CS

SUBJ: VISIT OF COSTA RICA PRESIDENT FIGUERES TO ROMANIA

1. COSTA RICA PRESIDENT JOSE FIGUERES PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO ROMANIA APRIL 22-25 THAT EMPHASIZED POINTS OF POLITICAL AGREEMENT AND CULTURAL AFFINITIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. VISIT RECEIVED CUSTOMARY HEAVY MEDIA PLAY IN ROMANIA.

2. DESPITE EVIDENT WARMTH ON BOTH SIDES THROUGHOUT VISIT, JOINT COMMUNIQUE SIGNED BY FIGUERES AND CEAUSESCU SPEAKS OF "NECESSITY OF AMPLIFYING (BILATERAL) ECONOMIC RELATIONS" AND DIVERSIFYING THEIR STRUCTURE "THROUGH ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION" WITHOUT POINTING TO ANY CONCRETE STEPS TO BE TAKEN IN THESE DIRECTIONS. AT SAME TIME, IN PORTION OF COMMUNIQUE DEVOTED TO INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS FIGUERES ACCEPTED WELL-KNOWN ROMANIAN POSITIONS ON NUMEROUS ISSUES SUCH AS GENERAL DISARMAMENT, REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS, ABOLITION OF FOREIGN MILITARY BASES, DISSOLUTION OF MILITARY BLOCS, ETC. BOTH SIDES ALSO SUPPORTED AFRICAN INDEPEND-

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ENCE MOVEMENTS, OPPOSED RACISM IN RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA, SALUTED "INDEPENDENCE" OF GUINES-BISSAU AND

ADOPTED WHAT WERE, FOR THE ROMANIANS AT LEAST, THOROUGH-
LY FAMILIAR POSITIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST, CSCE,
THE UN, INDO-CHINA AND VARIOUS OTHER QUESTIONS.

COMMENT: THE FIGUERES VISIT OBVIOUSLY WAS USEFUL TO
ROMANIANS IN DEMONSTRATING POLITICAL FRUITS OF CEAUSESCU'S
"HISTORIC" TRIP THROUGH LATIN AMERICA LAST YEAR AND AS
FURTHER STEP IN CONTINUING ROMANIAN PROGRAM OF BROADEN-
ING RELATIONSHIPS WITH NON-WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES,
PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THIRD WORLD. IN ABSENCE OF
ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS, HOWEVER, ADVANTAGES TO COSTA RICA
OF VISIT BY LAME DUCK PRESIDENT ARE LESS CLEAR, AT
LEAST TO US HERE.

BARNES

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